CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a portal user access to a resource server via a portal server, comprising:

said portal user performing a single-sign-on to access said portal server;

said portal user requesting a resource from said resource server via said portal server;

said portal server performing a sign-on to access said resource server on behalf of said portal user; and

said resource server returning said resource to said portal user via said portal server.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said performing a sign-on to access said resource server comprises a using stored credentials.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said performing a sign-on to access said resource server comprises using a shared authentication service.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said performing a sign-on to access said resource server comprises using proxy authentication.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said resource server is an electronic mail server.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said resource server is an instant messaging server.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said resource server is an addressbook server.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said resource server is a calendar server.

9. A system for providing a portal user access to a resource server via a portal server using a single-sign-on, said system comprising

a first sign-on mechanism associated with said portal server for allowing said portal user access to said portal server;

a second sign-on mechanism associated with said portal server for allowing said portal server access to said resource server; and

wherein said first sign-on mechanism is executed only once during a user session, and wherein said second sign-on mechanism is executed one or more times.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said second sign-on mechanism comprises stored credential sign-on.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein said second sign-on mechanism comprises a shared authentication service.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein said second sign-on mechanism comprises a proxy authentication service.

13. The system of Claim 9, wherein said resource server is an electronic mail server.

14. The system of Claim 9, wherein said resource server is an instant messaging server.

15. The system of Claim 9, wherein said resource server is an addressbook server.

16. The system of Claim 9, wherein said resource server is a calendar server.

17. A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a system comprising a portal server coupled to a resource server, causes the system to provide a resource to a portal, comprising:

performing a first sign-on on behalf of said portal user with said portal server using a single-sign-on;

receiving a request for said resource from said portal user;

performing a second sign-on by said portal server to access said resource server on behalf of said portal user; and

returning said resource to said portal user via said portal server.

18. The computer readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said performing a second sign-on to access said resource server comprises using stored credentials.

19. The computer readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said performing a second sign-on to access said resource server comprises using a shared authentication service.

20. The computer readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said performing a second sign-on to access said resource server comprises using proxy authentication.